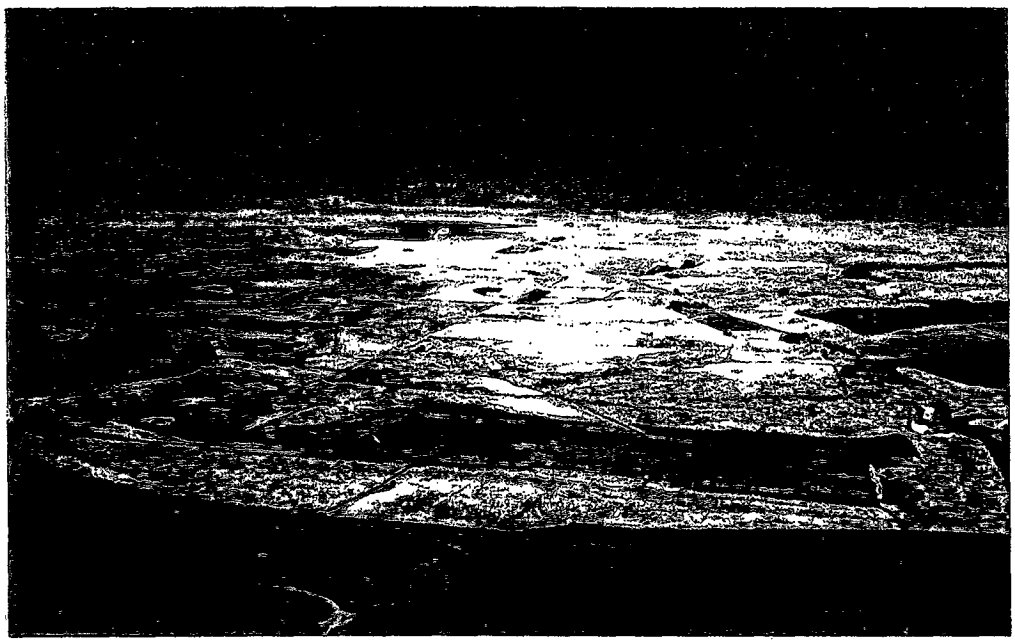
MONTEZUMA WETLANDS PROJECT



Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement

VOLUME I

U.S. ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
San Francisco District

SOLANO COUNTY

SCH No. 91113031
Corps Public Notice No. 19405E26

JULY 1998

C—088081

C-088081

MONTEZUMA WETLANDS PROJECT

Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement

VOLUME I

PREPARED BY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT
FEDERAL LEAD AGENCY

SOLANO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
LOCAL LEAD AGENCY

State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 91113031
Corps Public Notice No. 19405E26

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WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF

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JULY 1998

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INTRODUCTION

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This Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) analyzes the potential impacts associated with the proposed commercial disposal of materials dredged from the San Francisco Bay (1) to restore wetlands in the Suisun Marsh in Solano County; and (2) secondarily, to be sold for offsite reuse. The primary purpose of the EIR/EIS is to provide the public and decision makers with information regarding the environmental consequences of the proposed action, the Montezuma Wetlands Project and its alternatives. This document has been jointly prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) as the federal lead agency, and the Solano County Department of Environmental Management (County), as the local lead agency.

1.1 Report Organization

This EIR/EIS is organized into three volumes. Volume I includes the following:

- *Chapter 1,* Introduction, briefly describes the Project background, purpose and need, and the way in which the EIR/EIS will be used by agencies with regulatory, permit or review responsibilities for the Project. The scoping process for the EIR/EIS and issues addressed within the document are summarized in this section.
- *Chapter 2,* Areas of Controversy and Concern, introduces the major issues related to the Montezuma Wetlands Project. The feasibility of tidal marsh restoration, the quality of the dredged materials to be used for the project, the potential for contaminant release, the interim screening criteria for dredged materials, and the potential impacts of marsh restoration resulting from habitat conversion are briefly discussed.
- *Chapter 3,* Summary of Findings, presents a brief summary of the Project and a summary of the impacts and mitigation measures presented in this EIR/EIS. Impacts are identified according to their level of significance to the Corps and Solano County.
- *Chapter 4,* Project Description, describes the Proposed Project.
- *Chapter 5,* Project Alternatives, describes the alternatives to the Proposed Project.
- *Chapter 6,* Affected Environment, Environmental Impacts, and Mitigation Measures contains the environmental impact assessment. For each impact category, this report describes the affected environment, potential impacts of the Project and the alternatives, and measures which would mitigate or reduce identified impacts.
- *Chapter 7,* Comparison of Alternatives, compares each of the alternatives analyzed in this report, and identifies the environmentally superior alternative.
- *Chapter 8,* Major Conclusions and Recommendations, contains the required CEQA and NEPA conclusions regarding growth inducement, significant irreversible impacts, short-term versus long-term productivity, cumulative impacts, and general recommendations for the Project based on the EIR/EIS analysis.
- *Chapter 9,* Report Preparation, provides a summary of report preparers, contacts, and references.

- *Chapter 10,* References, provides full citations for all the references noted in this document.
- *Chapter 11,* Glossary, provides definitions of technical and environmental terminology used throughout this document.

Volume II includes Technical Appendices A through Q to the EIR/EIS, including a variety of technical information that supports the descriptive and analytical content of Volume I. Volume III contains Appendices R and S, consisting of comments on the Draft EIR/EIS, and corresponding responses, respectively.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Wetlands Restoration in the San Francisco Bay

San Francisco Bay is a world renowned estuary and one of the world's most important natural harbors. Over 90 percent of the estuary's historic wetlands have been significantly altered or no longer exist, which has led to a dramatic reduction in the wildlife populations that depend on them. Efforts to restore and enhance the estuary's wetlands have focused on properties that had been diked off from the Bay, usually for agriculture. Agricultural practices over many years have caused some diked lands to subside so that current land elevations are many feet below sea level, far below the intertidal elevations that originally supported tidal channels, mudflats, and marshes.

The restoration of tidal wetlands on subsided, diked baylands requires both the reintroduction of tidal circulation and the reestablishment of appropriate intertidal elevations. Where there is an abundant supply of suspended sediment, natural sedimentation may suffice to bring diked, subsided baylands up to intertidal elevations, allowing marsh reestablishment within 10-20 years following the initial reintroduction of tidal circulation. This has occurred in San Pablo Bay at White Slough and Toy Marsh (personal communication, P. Baye). Where there is less suspended sediment in newly reintroduced tidal waters, all else being equal, the succession from tidal lagoon or embayment to intertidal marsh will be slower. Placing dredged materials on subsided, diked baylands can accelerate the marsh restoration process and reduce the uncertainties of natural sedimentation by raising ground level to the desired height before tidal action is reintroduced. Using dredged materials increases the rate and predictability of marsh succession to a greater degree where sediment supply is less predictable.

Federal, state, and local wetland protection policies now require restoration of wetlands to offset the impacts of development of wetland areas. This requirement has led to an interest in using dredged materials to restore wetlands in the Bay.

1.2.2 Dredging in the San Francisco Bay

It is estimated that over the next 50 years, up to 300 million cubic yards (mcy) of sediment, an annual average of 6 mcy, will need to be dredged from the San Francisco Bay for maritime trade, recreational boating and other purposes.[1] As shipping technology has advanced, the ports of Oakland, Richmond, and San Francisco, the three main shipping centers in the Bay Area, require deeper navigational shipping channels for deep draft vessels which draw in excess of 42 feet of water.

[1] LTMS 1996

These channels are mostly maintained by the Corps, and the areas within each port's ownership are maintained by those individual ports. Recent proposals to deepen existing harbors and berths to accommodate modern deep draft vessels would generate an additional 16 mcy of dredged materials. Sites for disposal of these materials would be needed.

1.2.3 Disposal of Dredged Materials

For many years dredged materials taken from the federal and port channels were removed from the bottom of the Bay, placed in barges, transported to one of the federally designated areas in the Bay or ocean, and dumped. Due to accumulation of dredged materials and the blockage of shipping channels at the Alcatraz site in the 1980s, the Corps and other regulatory agencies focused attention on several issues. These included the capacity of the Bay and ocean disposal sites, the effects on water quality from the disposal of material that in some cases included contaminants, and the effect of disposal in the Bay on the Bay's fisheries resources.

New policies were adopted by the agencies with authority over dredging and disposal, and disposal operations for large projects were substantially curtailed. An interagency cooperative effort, the Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for the Disposal of Dredged Material in San Francisco Bay, was established to resolve the dredged materials disposal issue. A goal of the study is to find alternatives for disposal of dredged materials from the Bay. One alternative for disposal is deposition of dredged materials on diked baylands. Wetlands would be restored on these baylands by raising low areas to elevations suitable for growing marsh vegetation, and breaching dikes to restore the lands to tidal action.

The environment in diked baylands (like the proposed site) and marshes is different from the aquatic environments found in the ocean or the Bay itself. Marsh environments tend to accumulate and stabilize sediments rather than disperse them, in contrast with other aquatic environments such as channels and high-energy mudflats. Deposited sediments in marsh environments thus have less chance of being dispersed than they do in aquatic environments. Many contaminants found in Bay sediments tend to stay bound to the sediment particles; therefore, one major concern is whether the deposited sediment is mobilized and transported away from the site. Marsh environments also have the potential to immobilize contaminants. Based on a set of criteria and effects-based testing, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Corps make decisions on a case-by-case basis regarding suitability of sediments proposed to be deposited in the ocean or the Bay.

To facilitate the effort to use dredged materials to restore tidal marshes on diked bayland and upland sites, the SFBRWQCB has published interim screening criteria that provide guidance in designating dredged material as "cover" and "non-cover" sediments. Cover sediments are those that would pass certain bioassays and leaching tests and only contain contaminants at concentrations less than those specified in the SFBRWQCB's interim screening criteria. Non-cover sediments are those that pass leaching tests, and have concentrations of contaminants that exceed criteria for cover material, but do not exceed criteria for non-cover material.

The interim screening criteria for cover and non-cover material differ from the effects-based testing required for sediments to be disposed at aquatic sites in the ocean or Bay. Sediments for aquatic environments must pass bioassays and, in some cases, bioaccumulation tests, but are not necessarily subject to criteria for contaminant concentrations. (For additional discussion of this issue see sections 2.3 and 6.6.)

1.3 Purpose and Need for the Project

The purpose of the Montezuma Wetlands Project is to combine the commercial disposal of dredged materials with the restoration of a tidal wetland ecosystem. Approved cover and non-cover dredged materials taken from the San Francisco Bay Area (see section 2.3) would be used to raise the subsided land to elevations suitable for the restoration of tidal marsh and other habitats, including some seasonal wetland features

The Project would meet the regional goal, identified by the LTMS, of finding an alternative to Bay or ocean disposal of dredged materials, in turn facilitating maintenance of channels necessary for port activity in the San Francisco Bay. Executive Directors of the LTMS agencies in June 1997 signed a Resolution to secure funding for the beneficial reuse of dredged sediment to restore habitat in the Bay-Delta region. The Resolution specifies that their preferred dredged sediment disposal alternative is to use 40% of sediment dredged from the Bay-Delta at beneficial uplands and wetland restoration sites. The Proposed Project is one of the major wetland restoration projects that would support the LTMS objectives.

The Proposed Project would benefit the regional economy by providing a disposal site for Bay Area dredging projects for the next 10 years. If successful, the Project would have the added benefit of restoring tidal wetlands, a diminishing natural resource in the Bay Area, and would enhance the habitat value of the site. Secondary benefits would include provision of new and improved public access, a source of revenue for Solano County if tipping fees are implemented, and an opportunity to monitor and further develop wetlands restoration techniques.

1.4 EIR/EIS Requirement

The EIR/EIS has been prepared to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). NEPA requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major federal actions that may have significant effects on the quality of the human environment. CEQA governs state and local government actions, and requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a discretionary project that may have a significant effect on the environment. Because both state and federal permits are requested for the Proposed Project, the Project must meet both state and federal environmental laws.

The requirements of both NEPA and CEQA are intended to provide clear and concise discussion of the impacts of proposed projects. They are also intended to put forward reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize or eliminate environmental impacts of projects.

As provided for in CEQA and NEPA regulations, Solano County and the Corps, as lead agencies, are cooperating to prepare this joint EIR/EIS that meets the requirements of both state and federal laws. The Corps, San Francisco District, acts as lead agency for the federal permit process and Solano County acts as lead agency for the local and state permit process.

The Draft EIR/EIS was provided to the public for review, comment, and participation in the planning process. This Final EIR/EIS has incorporated and taken into account that input, and now provides a basis for decision-making by responsible agencies and officials.

1.5 Use of the EIR/EIS

Several agencies will use the EIR/EIS as part of their review and approval process as described below. Table 1-1 shows the discretionary approvals required for the Project.

Table 1-1
Discretionary Actions Required

Solano County	• Amendments to the General Plan (i.e.; Land Use and Circulation Element, Resource Conservation and Open Space Plan, and Collinsville Montezuma Hills Area Plan as elements of the General Plan) • Amendments to the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Plan (LPP) • Amendment to Zoning Ordinance • Conditional Use Permit • Marsh Development Permit • Grading Permit • Transportation Permit
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	• Section 404 Permit (Clean Water Act) • Section 10 Permit (River & Harbors Act)
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board	• Section 401 (Clean Water Act) Water Quality Certification • NPDES Permit/ Waste Discharge Requirements
State Lands Commission	• Permit/Lease
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)	• Suisun Marsh Plan Amendment (adopted April 20, 1995) • Bay Plan Amendment (adopted April 20, 1995) • Marsh Development Permit
California Department of Fish and Game	• Streambed Alteration Agreement (Section 1603 Cal. Fish & Game Code) • 2081 Management Authorization • MOU between Project Applicant and CDFG for potential "taking" of state-listed threatened and endangered species

1.5.1 Solano County

In response to the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act of 1977, Solano County policies and regulations governing the Suisun Marsh were amended through the Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program, Solano County Component, which was approved by BCDC in 1982. The Local Protection Program includes

numerous elements of the General Plan, as well as ordinances in the County Code, including Zoning, Drainage and Flood Control, and Grading and Erosion Control. Solano County will use the EIR/EIS to review the application for a conditional use permit, a marsh development permit, and a grading permit, and to consider the requested amendments to the Solano County General Plan (i.e.; the Land Use and Circulation Element, the Resource Conservation and Open Space Plan, and the Collinsville Montezuma Hills Area Plan as elements of the General Plan), the Local Protection Program for the Suisun Marsh, and County Zoning Ordinance revisions. The conditional use permit, marsh development permit, and grading permit would be issued for a specific time period. The usual time period is 5 to 10 years with a provision for renewal. The applicant has applied for concurrent approval of all phases of the Proposed Project. The County may, as a result of its environmental review, approve the entire Project at once, or may issue separate approval for the individual phases of the Project. The County would conduct monitoring to ensure that conditions of permit approval are met.

Encroachment permits would be required from the Transportation Department for site access connections to County roads, and a Transportation Permit would be required for all overweight or oversize loads transported on County roads.

1.5.2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)

The Corps will use the EIR/EIS to evaluate and compare the environmental impacts associated with various project alternatives as part of its review for issuing a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) for the discharge of dredged material in waters of the United States, and under the River and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 402-403) (RHA) for work in navigable waters. The Section 404 permit is coordinated with a Section 10 permit under the RHA to alter navigable waters of the United States.

In preparation of the Final EIR/EIS, public and agency comments have been addressed . The Corps will determine whether the document meets the standards for an adequate EIS under its NEPA implementing regulations and those of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Corps will then circulate the Final EIR/EIS for 30 day public review prior to adoption.

In a separate discretionary actions, following adoption of the EIS, the Corps will evaluate the project application for Section 404 and Section 10 permits. NEPA compliance is one step in the Corps' Section 404 permitting process. Before issuing an individual permit, the Corps must apply its own public interest review factors and EPA's Section 404 (b)(1) Guidelines.

The Corps' public interest review balances the favorable aspects of the proposed activity against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The Corps' regulations state that a permit "will be granted unless the district engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest" (33 CFR 320.4(a)(1)). The Corps must apply EPA-promulgated regulations to individual permit evaluations. EPA's Guidelines include criteria for specification of disposal sites in environmentally sensitive areas. Under EPA's Guidelines, no discharge shall be permitted if there is a less damaging practicable alternative to the proposed discharge. Practicability is described as: "available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes" (40 CFR 230.10(a)(2)). The Guidelines prohibit the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States where the following occur:

- The discharge causes or contributes to significant degradation of the aquatic environment;
- There is a practicable, less environmentally damaging alternative;

- The discharge violates state water quality standards or Clean Water Act toxic effluence standards;
- The discharge jeopardizes the continued existence of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973;
- Appropriate and practicable steps have not been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts on the aquatic ecosystem (40 CFR 230.10) (1992).

Prior to issuing a Section 404 permit, the Corps requires that a Section 401 water quality certification be issued or waived by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and that a San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission permit be issued. These actions are described below.

1.5.3 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA's role in EIR/EIS review will include comments provided pursuant to NEPA. EPA will comment on individual permit applications and will ensure compliance with NEPA and Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The Corps shares its permitting authority with EPA, and the Corps must follow EPA guidelines when reviewing Section 404 permit applications. EPA has the authority to effectively "veto" a Corps permit under the Clean Water Act (Section 404). The effect of the Project on wetlands that are subject to the Clean Water Act and the adequacy of the alternatives analysis in terms of avoiding and minimizing impacts will be of primary concern to EPA. The EPA also has primary responsibility for implementing the Clean Air Act.

1.5.4 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB)

The SFBRWQCB is responsible for managing water quality in the San Francisco Bay Area. The SFBRWQCB has produced the San Francisco Bay Basin Water Quality Control Plan, which discusses beneficial water uses which the Board will protect, water quality objectives needed to protect the designated beneficial water uses, and strategies and time schedules for achieving the water quality objectives. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires any applicant for a Section 404 individual permit to obtain certification from the SWRCB that the activity associated with dredging or filling will comply with applicable state effluent limitations and water quality standards. The SFBRWQCB evaluates the project and makes recommendations to the SWRCB on the issuance of a Section 401 water quality certification. The SFBRWQCB will also use the EIR/EIS to evaluate the environmental impacts of the Project prior to the issuance of a water quality certification and waste discharge requirements for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

1.5.5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service

The Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1540) requires the Corps to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service if any proposed action may adversely affect or jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species. Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service is similarly required where marine mammals or anadromous fishes may be affected. These agencies will use the EIR/EIS to review the environmental consequences of the Project on fish and wildlife resources including threatened and endangered species. Under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a to 742d, 742e to 742j-2) the Corps must consult with the USFWS to prevent the direct and indirect loss of, or damage to wildlife resources, and must "fully consider" USFWS comments.

1.5.6 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470), the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) reviews and comments on Corps permit applications which could threaten significant archeological resources or have an effect on historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The SHPO will review this EIR/EIS.

1.5.7 State of California Department of Fish and Game

Under the Streambed Alteration permit requirements, (California Fish and Game Code Section 1603), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) must be notified and approve any work which substantially diverts, alters or obstructs the natural flow or substantially changes the bed, channel or banks of any river, stream or lake in the state. Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, the project would require a Section 2081 Management Authorization. The Project Applicant would also need to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the CDFG prior to project implementation to permit activities that may result in the "take" of state-listed threatened and endangered species.

1.5.8 San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

The McAteer-Petris Act of 1965 (California Government Code Section 66600 *et seq.*) established the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and empowered the BCDC to issue permits for filling, dredging, and other activities affecting the waters of the Bay. The BCDC also issues federal consistency determinations under the Coastal Zone Management Act for areas within its jurisdiction. The BCDC has jurisdiction over projects in the San Francisco Bay and projects within 100 feet of its shoreline. The BCDC has two fundamental objectives:

- To protect the Bay as a natural resource for the benefit of present and future generations.
- To develop the Bay and its shoreline to their highest potential with a minimum of bay filling.

BCDC adopted the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan in 1979, pursuant to the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act, enacted by the State legislature in 1977. BCDC adopted the San Francisco Bay Plan in 1969, pursuant to the McAteer-Petris Act of 1965. As part of the Proposed Project, amendments to the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan and Bay Plan were adopted by BCDC on April 20, 1995. These amendments were necessary to allow restoration of certain portions of the Project site to marsh, using dredged sediment, and are described in detail in section 4.10.2.

BCDC will use the EIR/EIS to evaluate the environmental effects, public benefits, and detriments of the Project as part of a permit application under the McAteer-Petris Act for placing fill at the project site and changing its use from predominantly diked wetlands to predominantly tidal wetlands habitat. Through its issuance of the federal consistency determination, BCDC also has input to the Corps' permit process.

1.5.9 State Lands Commission

The State Lands Commission (Commission) has jurisdiction and management control over those public lands of the State received by the State upon its admission to the United States in 1850 ("sovereign lands"). Generally, these "sovereign lands" include all ungranted tidelands, submerged lands, and beds of navigable water bodies. To some degree, the Commission's jurisdiction is site-specific, and the applicant must sometimes submit a title report so that the Commission can determine the extent of its property

interest in the subject site. In the case of the Proposed Project, the State Lands Commission's jurisdiction was determined in a Title Settlement Agreement, dated June 30, 1993.

Any proposed land use within the Commission's jurisdiction must obtain authorization from the Commission. Typically, allowable uses are those consistent with "public trust uses" including fishing, recreation, and navigation. The Commission will use the EIR/EIS to evaluate the environmental effects, public benefits, and detriments of the Proposed Project as part of a lease application for boat ramps constructed for the offloading facility, any offshore areas used for mooring barges at the offloading facility, the deep water discharge pipeline from the makeup water pond, and part of the marsh restoration area in Phase IV of the Proposed Project.

1.5.10 Other Agencies

Several agencies such as the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD), Caltrans, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the State Department of Dam Safety, the U.S. Coast Guard and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will use the EIR/EIS process to review the Project for compliance with their guidelines. For example, the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) will review the Project to assure that it meets the criteria in the California Health and Safety Code, Section 2274 regarding the control of mosquitoes and the CPUC will review modifications in rail alignments. The U.S. Coast Guard will use the EIR/EIS to monitor and consider environmental effects of maritime traffic at dredging sites and dredged materials disposal sites.

1.6 Subsequent Discretionary Actions

Although this EIR/EIS covers the wetlands restoration project, it does not cover each individual dredging project that would supply dredged materials to the site. Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Corps, SFBRWQCB and BCDC have regulatory authority over dredging and disposal activities and would take action in the future for individual dredging projects. Additional CEQA/NEPA environmental review process would need to be completed for these dredging projects.

1.7 EIR/EIS Process and Scope

The scope of issues addressed in this EIR/EIS is based on agency and public comment provided during a scoping meeting, subsequent task force meetings, and comments on the Draft EIR/EIS. The concerns, questions, and issues during these public meetings and subsequent discussions with permitting agencies helped to formulate the various on-site wetlands alternatives analyzed in this EIR/EIS.

Solano County published a Notice of Preparation of a combined EIR/EIS on November 4, 1991. The County held a scoping meeting on November 20, 1991 with local, state and federal agencies having jurisdiction over or interest in the Proposed Project. The main objective of this meeting was to describe the EIR/EIS process, answer questions, and obtain public and agency input for issues and alternatives to be analyzed. In addition to providing input into the scope and content of the EIR/EIS, these agencies expressed their concerns on the general project design with respect to permit decisions.

After the scoping meeting, representatives from several public agencies met during the early planning stages of the project. These representatives were selected by the County and the Corps to serve as a task force to review and comment on technical reports prepared as part of the EIR/EIS process, and to solicit agency comments early in the process so they could be considered in the impact analysis and development of mitigation measures. Two task force meetings were held on November 5, 1991 and February 18, 1992.

Consultation with public agencies also led to the development of two off-site alternatives. For additional information on alternatives selection see Chapter 5.

In response to the issues raised in the Draft EIR/EIS and comments on the draft, a series of interagency meetings on the project were held from January to May, 1995. As a result of these meetings, Levine-Fricke (LF) revised several key elements of their proposed project, adopting agency suggestions and Draft EIR/EIS mitigation measures to lessen impacts, These revisions are summarized in Chapter 2. In addition, LF prepared four technical documents to respond to EIR/EIS impact issues and related comments. These documents are part of the project technical file (available from Solano County) and are as follows:

- *Ecological Resources Mitigation and Restoration Plan*[2]
- *Dredged Sediment Quality Report* [3]
- *Engineering Report*[4]
- *Draft Monitoring Plan*[5].

Based on the review of these documents during preparation of the Final EIR/EIS, the essential information they contain has been selectively incorporated into the Final EIR/EIS, either as part of the revised Proposed Project, as new or modified mitigation, or as supporting technical information. As such, these technical documents are no longer critical to the Final EIR/EIS, which is intended as much as possible to be a stand-alone document.

In preparing the Final EIR/EIS, the lead agencies and EIR/EIS consultant have assessed the adequacy of revisions to the Proposed Project to mitigate impacts previously recognized in the Draft EIR/EIS, and reevaluated the adequacy of Draft EIR/EIS mitigation measures in reducing impacts to less than significance. In some cases, project revisions have been found to effectively mitigate, or at least reduce impacts, while in other cases, new or modified mitigation measures have been developed in the Final EIR/EIS. Revisions to the Proposed Project, impact analyses, and mitigation measures in the main volume of this Final EIR/EIS are also responsive to comments on the Draft EIR/EIS (Volume III), and provide more complete disclosure, i.e., a better understanding of the project now proposed and its environmental impacts, than would have been possible in responses to comments alone.

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[2] Levine-Fricke 1995a
[3] Levine-Fricke 1995b
[4] Levine-Fricke 1995c
[5] Levine-Fricke 1996